

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:

one or more digital cameras for capturing a plurality of images; and
a delivery-medium producing apparatus for automatically recording a the plurality of
images captured by a plurality of digital cameras, the delivery-medium producing apparatus
including: comprising:

a receiving unit operable configured to receive a the plurality of images via
wireless communications with the one or more digital cameras, which are automatically
transmitted to the receiving unit from the plurality of digital cameras, wherein said plurality of
images are automatically transmitted from the plurality of digital cameras in accordance with
instructions which are determined by users of the plurality of digital cameras in advance;

an image keeping apparatus operable configured to keep said plurality of images
received and recorded therein by said receiving unit; and

a delivery-medium recording unit operable configured to record said plurality of
images onto one or more recording media,

wherein the one or more digital cameras are configured to automatically determine when
an image transmitting condition is met, and to automatically transmit the plurality of images to
the delivery-medium producing apparatus in response to the determination, in such a manner
that each of said recording media stores one or more images of said plurality of images that were
received from one of said users only.

2. (Currently Amended) A delivery-medium producing apparatus-system as claimed in claim 1,
wherein the delivery-medium producing apparatus further includes: comprising:

another receiving unit operable to receive a negative film; and

an image converting unit operable to read an image recorded onto said negative film and
to convert said read image into a digital image,

wherein said digital image is kept by said image keeping apparatus and is recorded onto
one of said recording media for a corresponding user.

3. (Currently Amended) A ~~delivery-medium-producing apparatus-system~~ as claimed in claim 1, wherein

_____ said plurality of images are automatically transmitted to the receiving unit from a plurality of digital cameras corresponding to a plurality of users, and
_____ said delivery-medium recording unit records said one or more images of said plurality of images onto one of said recording media for ~~said one~~ of said users at predetermined intervals.

4. (Currently Amended) A ~~delivery-medium-producing apparatus-system~~ as claimed in claim 1, wherein

_____ said plurality of images are automatically transmitted to the receiving unit from a plurality of digital cameras corresponding to a plurality of users,
_____ said delivery-medium recording unit records said one or more images of said plurality of images when a recording instruction from said one of said users is received.

5. (Currently Amended) A ~~delivery-medium-producing apparatus-system~~ as claimed in claim 1, wherein the delivery-medium producing apparatus further includes comprising a database operable to store information related to each of said plurality of images in such a manner that said information corresponds to said each of said plurality of images, wherein

_____ said delivery-medium recording unit records said plurality of images onto said recording media based on said information in said database.

6. (Currently Amended) A ~~delivery-medium-producing apparatus-system~~ as claimed in claim 5, wherein said information includes at least a user ID of said each of said plurality of images that specifies a corresponding user.

7. (Currently Amended) A ~~delivery-medium-producing apparatus-system~~ as claimed in claim 6, wherein said information further includes at least one of a date and a place said each of said plurality of images was captured, and

said delivery-medium recording unit records said plurality of images after classification of said images based on said at least one of said data and said place.

8. (Currently Amended) A ~~delivery-medium-producing apparatus-system~~ as claimed in claim 1, wherein the delivery-medium producing apparatus further includes: comprising:

an extra-printing-request receiving unit operable to receive an extra-printing request for an image of said plurality of images kept by said image keeping apparatus from a corresponding user; and

an extra-printing processing unit operable to print said image to be extra-printed onto paper in accordance with said extra-printing request.

9. (Currently Amended) A ~~delivery-medium-producing apparatus-system~~ as claimed in claim 8, wherein said extra-printing request specifies said image to be extra-printed, and the quantity and size of the extra print.

10. (Currently Amended) A ~~delivery-medium-producing apparatus-system~~ as claimed in claim 8, wherein the delivery-medium producing apparatus further comprising includes a database operable to store image IDs respectively assigned to said plurality of images, wherein

said extra-printing request specifies said image to be extra-printed by specifying one of said image IDs that is assigned to said image to be extra-printed, and

said extra-printing processing unit specifies said image to be extra-printed by referring to said database.

11. (Currently Amended) A ~~delivery-medium-producing apparatus-system~~ as claimed in claim 10, wherein said recording media stores said image IDs respectively assigned to said images together with said images, to help each of said users to select said image to be extra-printed.

12. (Currently Amended) A ~~delivery-medium-producing apparatus-system~~ as claimed in claim 1, wherein

the delivery-medium producing apparatus further comprising includes an extra-printing-request receiving unit operable to receive an extra-printing request for an image of said plurality of images kept by said image keeping apparatus from a corresponding user, and wherein
said delivery-medium recording unit records said image to be extra-printed onto a new recording medium.

13. (Currently Amended) A delivery-medium producing apparatus-system as claimed in claim 12, wherein

the delivery-medium further comprising includes a database operable to store image IDs respectively assigned to said images, wherein

said extra-printing request specifies said image to be extra-printed by specifying one of said image IDs that is assigned to said image to be extra-printed, and wherein

said delivery-medium recording unit specifies said image to be extra-printed by referring to said database and records said image thus specified onto said new recording medium.

14. (Currently Amended) A delivery-medium producing apparatus-system as claimed in claim 13, wherein

said plurality of images are automatically transmitted to the receiving unit from a plurality of digital cameras corresponding to a plurality of users.

said recording media stores said image IDs respectively assigned to said images together with said images, to help each of said users to select said image to be extra-printed.

15. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:

one or more digital cameras for capturing a plurality of images; and

a delivery-medium producing apparatus for automatically recording a-the plurality of images captured by a plurality of digital cameras, the delivery-medium producing apparatus including: comprising:

a receiving unit operable-configured to receive a-the plurality of images via wireless communications with the one or more digital cameras, which are automatically

~~transmitted to the receiving unit from the plurality of digital cameras, wherein said plurality of images are automatically transmitted from the plurality of digital cameras in accordance with instructions which are determined by users of the plurality of digital cameras in advance;~~

~~_____ an image keeping apparatus operable configured to keep said plurality of images received and recorded therein by said receiving unit;~~

~~_____ a delivery-medium recording unit operable configured to record said plurality of images onto one or more recording media, in such a manner that each of said recording media stores one or more images of said plurality of images that were received from one of said users only; and~~

~~_____ a keeping-time monitoring unit operable configured to monitor a keeping time for each of said plurality of images to determine whether or not said keeping time reaches an end of a predetermined keeping term, said keeping time being a time that has passed after said each of said plurality of images was recorded in said image keeping apparatus;~~

~~_____ a keeping-time notifying unit operable configured to notify, when said keeping time is determined to reach said end of said predetermined keeping term, a corresponding user of said each of said plurality of images that said predetermined term expired;~~

~~_____ wherein the one or more digital cameras are configured to automatically determine when an image transmitting condition is met, and to automatically transmit the plurality of images to the delivery-medium producing apparatus in response to the determination.~~

16. (Currently Amended) A ~~delivery-medium producing apparatus system~~ as claimed in claim 15, wherein said image keeping apparatus deletes one of said plurality of images for which said predetermined keeping term expired, if no user's instruction is received from said corresponding user within a predetermined waiting time period after the notification.

17. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:

_____ one or more digital cameras for capturing a plurality of images; and

_____ a delivery-medium producing apparatus for automatically recording a the plurality of images captured by a plurality of digital cameras, the delivery-medium producing apparatus

including: comprising:

_____ a receiving unit ~~operable configured~~ to receive ~~a the~~ plurality of images via wireless communications with the one or more digital cameras, which are automatically transmitted from the plurality of digital cameras, wherein said plurality of images are automatically transmitted from the plurality of digital cameras in accordance with instructions which are determined by users of the plurality of digital cameras in advance;

_____ an image keeping apparatus ~~operable configured~~ to keep said plurality of images received and recorded ~~therein by said receiving unit;~~

_____ a delivery-medium recording unit ~~operable configured~~ to record said plurality of images onto one or more recording media, in such a manner that each of said recording media stores one or more images of said plurality of images that were received from one of said users only;

_____ a payment-mode receiving unit ~~operable configured~~ to receive an instruction specifying a payment mode from each of said one or more users of the one or more digital cameras, ~~;~~ and

_____ a payment processing unit operable to indirectly charge ~~said each of said one or more users~~ in accordance with said specified payment mode,

wherein the one or more digital cameras are configured to automatically determine when an image transmitting condition is met, and to automatically transmit the plurality of images to the delivery-medium producing apparatus in response to the determination.

18. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium storing thereon a program for use in a digital camera capable of being connected to a phone, comprising:

a connection-detecting module operable to detect connection between said digital camera and said phone;

a calling module operable to make said phone call a predetermined number after the connection is detected; and

a transmitting module operable to automatically determine when an image transmitting condition is met, and to make said digital camera automatically transmit a plurality of images

captured by said digital camera via said phone ~~automatically~~ to an external apparatus for storage in response to the determination, accordance with an instruction determined by a user in advance,
wherein the external apparatus is adapted to automatically store images captured and transmitted by a plurality of digital cameras.

19. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable medium as claimed in claim 18, wherein said digital camera is connected to said phone by short-distance radio communication.

20. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium as claimed in claim 18, further comprising a monitoring module operable to monitor the number of said one or more images captured by said digital camera to determine whether or not said number reaches a predetermined number, wherein

said transmitting module makes said digital camera transmit said one or more images when said monitored number of said one or more images reaches said predetermined number.

21. (Currently Amended) A capturing device, comprising:

a capturing unit operable to capture a plurality of images of an object; and

a controller operable to control said capturing device and to control a communication device capable of being connected to said capturing device to wirelessly communicate with an external apparatus, wherein

said controller is configured to automatically determine when an image transmitting condition is met, and to control the capturing device to automatically transmit each of said plurality of images are transmitted automatically to said external apparatus via said communicating device to said external apparatus for storage in response to the determination, accordance with an instruction determined by a user in advance,

wherein the external apparatus is adapted to automatically store images captured and transmitted by a plurality of capturing devices.

22. (Original) A capturing device as claimed in claim 21, wherein said capturing device stores a

program to be executed by said controller, and

said capturing unit transmits said image to said external apparatus in accordance with said program.

23. (Original) A capturing device as claimed in claim 22, wherein said capturing device is operable to store said captured image,

said controller of said capturing unit determines whether or not the number of stored images reaches a predetermined number, and

said transmission is performed in accordance with said program when said number of said images reaches said predetermined number.

24. (Original) A capturing device as claimed in claim 22, wherein said controller determines whether or not a predetermined time period has passed after said image was captured, and

said transmission is performed in accordance with said program when said predetermined time period has passed after said image was captured.

25. (Currently Amended) A capturing device as claimed in claim 22, further comprising a unit operable to receive a user's instruction to allow ~~said transmission~~ an image to be performed transmitted manually, ~~wherein~~

~~———said transmission is performed in response to said user's instruction in accordance with said program.~~

26. (Currently Amended) A capturing device as claimed in claim 25, further comprising a display operable to display ~~said stored~~ captured images to allow said user to select which image is to be transmitted manually to said external apparatus.

27. (Original) A capturing device as claimed in claim 21, wherein said communicating device is formed integrally with said capturing device as a single device.

28. (Currently Amended) A delivery-medium producing method for automatically recording a plurality of images captured by a plurality of digital cameras, comprising:

using each of a plurality of digital cameras to automatically determine when respective image transmitting conditions are met;

in response to the determination, using each of the plurality of digital cameras to automatically transmit one or more images as digital data to a remote delivery-medium producing site;

receiving at the delivery-medium producing site the a plurality of images, which are automatically transmitted from the plurality of digital cameras by means of an image receiving unit, said plurality of images being automatically transmitted from the plurality of digital cameras to the image receiving unit in accordance with instructions determined by users of the plurality of digital cameras in advance, the plurality of images being transmitted as digital data from said plurality of digital cameras;

keeping said one or more received images at the delivery-medium producing site by recording said received one or more images in an image keeping apparatus;

recording said one or more images of the kept images onto a recording medium; and

delivering said recording medium to a place specified by a user of said the digital camera responsible for capturing the one or more images recorded on the recording medium. device.

29. (Currently Amended) A delivery-medium producing method as claimed in claim 28, wherein at least one of said plurality of digital cameras transmits an image to the delivery-medium producing site ~~images are transmitted via a phone capable of being connected to said at least one of the digital cameras capturing device~~ via a wire or wirelessly.

30. (Canceled)

31. (Currently Amended) A delivery-medium producing method for automatically recording a plurality of images captured by a plurality of digital cameras, comprising:

using each of a plurality of digital cameras to automatically determine when respective

image transmitting conditions are met;

in response to the determination, using each of the plurality of digital cameras to automatically transmit one or more images as digital data to a remote delivery-medium producing site;

receiving at the delivery-medium producing site the plurality of images automatically transmitted from the plurality of digital cameras by means of an image receiving unit, said plurality of images being automatically transmitted as digital data from said plurality of digital cameras capturing device;

keeping said plurality of received images at the delivery-medium producing site by recording said received one or more images in an image keeping apparatus;

recording said plurality one or more of the kept images onto recording media;

delivering said recording media to places specified by users of said digital cameras;

receiving at the delivery-medium producing apparatus designations of payment modes specified-made by said users; and

charging said users for required costs in accordance with said specified payment modes.

32. (Currently Amended) A delivery-medium producing method as claimed in claim 31, wherein each of said users is allowed to specify-designate that said user pays said payment of the required cost will be made in cash when said user receives said recording medium delivered to said user's specified place.

33. (Currently Amended) A delivery-medium producing method as claimed in claim 31, wherein each user is allowed to specify-designate at least charging via a bank or via a credit service company as said payment mode.

34. (Currently Amended) A delivery-medium producing method as claimed in claim 33, wherein, said plurality of images are images transmitted via a phone connected to said digital cameras, and said users are is-allowed to specify-designate charging via a telephone company as said payment mode.

35 (Canceled)

36. (Currently Amended) A delivery-medium producing apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein ~~said receiving unit receives said plurality of images in accordance with image~~ transmitting condition is based on at least one of a shot date and a number of captured images.

37. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable medium as claimed in claim 18, wherein each of said plurality of images are captured and stored in the digital camera.

38. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable medium as claimed in claim 18, wherein said transmitting module transmits said plurality of images in accordance with at least one of a shot date and a number of captured images.

39 (Previously Presented) A capturing device as claimed in claim 21, wherein each of said plurality of images are captured and stored in a digital camera.

40. (Previously Presented) A capturing device as claimed in claim 21, wherein said plurality of images are transmitted in accordance with at least one of a shot date and a number of captured images.

41 (Canceled)

42. (Currently Amended) A delivery-medium producing method as claimed in claim 28, wherein, for at least one of the digital cameras, the respective image transmitting condition is based on ~~said receiving step receives said plurality of images in accordance with~~ at least one of a shot date and a number of captured images.

43. (Previously Presented) A delivery-medium producing apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said delivery-medium recording unit automatically records an image in accordance with at least one of: a time that has passed after each image was captured, the number of the images that have been captured, and predetermined intervals.

44. (Previously Presented) A delivery-medium producing apparatus as claimed in claim 15, wherein said delivery-medium recording unit automatically records an image in accordance with at least one of: a time that has passed after each image was captured, the number of the images that have been captured, and predetermined intervals.

45. (Previously Presented) A delivery-medium producing apparatus as claimed in claim 17, wherein said delivery-medium recording unit automatically records an image in accordance with at least one of: a time that has passed after each image was captured, the number of the images that have been captured, and predetermined intervals.

46. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable medium as claimed in claim 18, wherein said external apparatus automatically records the transmitted images onto recording media in accordance with at least one of: a time that has passed after each image was captured, the number of the images that have been captured, and predetermined intervals.

47. (Previously Presented) A capturing device as claimed in claim 21, wherein said external apparatus automatically records the transmitted images onto recording media in accordance with at least one of: a time that has passed after each image was captured, the number of the images that have been captured, and predetermined intervals.

48. (Currently Amended) A delivery-medium producing method as claimed in claim 28, wherein said method automatically records an image onto the recording medium in accordance with at least one of: a time that has passed after each image was captured, the number of the images that have been captured, and predetermined intervals.

49. (Currently Amended) A delivery-medium producing method as claimed in claim 31, wherein said method automatically records an image onto one of the recording media in accordance with at least one of: a time that has passed after each image was captured, the number of the images that have been captured, and predetermined intervals.

50. (Canceled)